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Winter 2017 Edition

Megan Maxwell, Editor

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2016 HUGE Year for Museum of the Cape Fear

No matter how we remember the year 2016 in the history books, we are happy to report that the Museum of the Cape Fear Historical Complex saw an overall audience increase of nearly 5,000 people and successfully implemented 32 public programs. According to our official stats, 48,670 people visited the museum complex or attended one of our offsite outreach programs in 2016.

Our annual events included the Civil War Quiz Bowl in January, Dancing Stories with April C. Turner in February, Summer History Camp in June, the Festival of Yesteryear in September, Halloween Revels Night Tours and Trick or Treat in October, and the Holiday Jubilee on December 4. New for this year was the May Day Fete on May 1, where visitors danced around a May Pole and made flower baskets to celebrate the coming of spring. Our slate of guest speaker programs included Civil War historians

Michael C. Hardy and Michael Zatarga; sports historian Brett Friedlander; and David Hall who gave a talk on the business of death to compliment our temporary gallery exhibit "Parlor to Parlor: Funeral Traditions of the Cape Fear 1850-1950." We partnered with local theater group Sweet Tea Shakespeare for a series of classical plays with a twist that included *Sense and Sensibility* in April, *The Merchant of Venice* in June, and *Measure for Measure* in July.

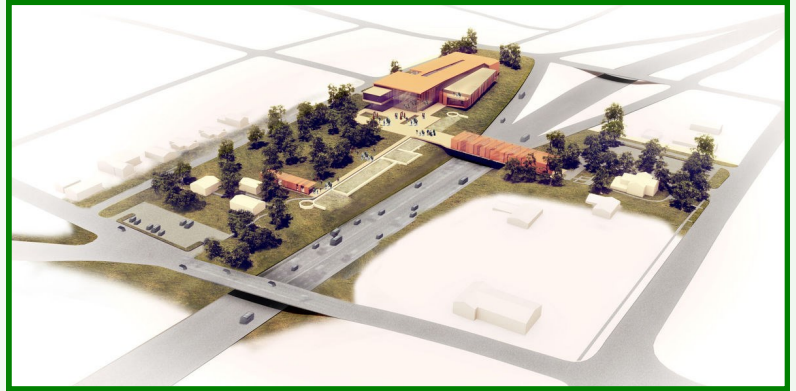
Many of our visitors were greeted and served by one of over 50 regular volunteers or one of the four friendly faces on our weekend staff. We continue to operate with a full time staff of five, so the Complex relies heavily on the commitment and enthusiasm from our volunteers and weekenders to continue to offer exceptional programming and visitor services free to the public. Thank you all for your continued support and best wishes for the year 2017!

**Museum Staff and
Volunteers pose with
Santa at the annual
Holiday Jubilee. Left
to Right: Carol
Scheib, Megan Max-
well, Louise White,
Santa, Sarah Stubbs,
and Angel Garcia.**



City Pledges Funds for History Center

On December 12, 2016 the Fayetteville City Council voted unanimously to pledge \$7.5 million towards the establishment of the North Carolina Civil War History Center. The pledge is contingent upon equal funding from the Cumberland County Commissioners and an additional \$30 million commitment from the State of North Carolina. County Commissioners will vote on the funds at a meeting scheduled for January 3, 2017. The target date for opening the center is sometime in 2020. If you would like to contribute to the center, you can donate online at nccivilwarcenter.org.



An image of the proposed NC Civil War History Center.

Museum Expands Social Media Presence on Instagram



The museum has expanded our social media network to include Instagram! We posted our first picture (a pro-

mo for the Parlor to Parlor exhibit that opened in May) in April. Since then, we have worked diligently to understand the world of hashtags, bios, and likes. We feature pictures promoting upcoming events, action shots of events as they're happening, and highlights of events after they're done. We do an occasional 'This Day in History' or 'This Day in Lillie Poe's Diary,' and snapshots of fun artifacts in the museum. Follow us

@museumofthecapefear!

By SARAH STUBBS



Celebrating Our “Deer” Volunteers



Volunteers were celebrated with a potluck luncheon and gifts. The theme this year was “Rein in the Holidays with our Deer Volunteers.” An ugly sweater contest was put on by the staff and volunteers voted Jim Frederickson for the honor of “Ugliest Christmas Sweater!”



What is the greatest treasure of any museum? Perhaps a prized artifact or a large donation to fund the next exhibit. For the Museum of the Cape Fear, our greatest treasure is something we see every day—volunteers. They help us to operate the museum on a daily basis. From greeting visitors at the reception desk to giving guided tours to school groups, or doing various tasks at a special event, volunteers enable us to serve. In 2016, volunteers at the museum contributed 3500 hours of their valuable time. On December 12, we recognized their dedication with a luncheon. What makes this treasure more amazing is that they are so humbled and appreciative by the recognition we give them. At the luncheon, Bill McCrea, one of the assistant directors at the NC Museum of History in Raleigh, stated that our volunteers were a “community.”

Some of the newest members to our volunteer community (those who joined during the last half of 2016) are: Meaghan Reid, Chelsea Anderson, Will Cross, Melissa Smith, Ashley Cascio, and Beth Bowan. Thank you all for your selfless commitment to the museum.

Would you like to become part of this special community of volunteers? Call 910/486-1330 and speak to Leisa Greathouse for an appointment, or email leisa.greathouse@ncdcr.gov.

Special thanks to our gift shop manager Betty Ray and office manager Karen Wallace for their hard work on this event! Enjoy a few pics from the luncheon.



New Volunteer Leads Preschool Pals

The Museum is happy to welcome back Meaghan Reid to our volunteer crew. Meaghan volunteered from 2009-2013 before moving to Virginia and then Tennessee due to her husband's military career. She is currently volunteering as a docent for scheduled groups and tours during the week, special events, and all other duties as requested! Perhaps her biggest task has been taking on the Preschool Pals program, which started up again in September.

"We have been so excited to bring back a loved program for our youngest visitors this year at the Museum of the Cape Fear," says Meaghan. "The program happens here at the Museum on the second Tuesday of every month from 10 to 10:45 am. Each month has a different theme based on the history of North Carolina. The month's activities include a story, craft, song, and adventure based on that topic for ages 2 to 5 years."

Meaghan reports; "Our next program is coming up on Tuesday January 10th at 10am and will be '1897 Winter Fun'. Our adventures will include a trip to the Poe House and historic craft. In February we will meet on Valentine's Day, Tuesday the 14th, and will be learning about 'President's Day'. And on Tuesday March 14th we will have an amazing lesson on 'Women's History'. If you have young history explorers, please call the Museum of the Cape Fear to register and join us! We look forward to lots of fun!"



Top: Preschool Pals Leader, Meaghan Reid.
Bottom L to R: Kids enjoyed December's Preschool Pals Theme, "Trains!" by building train sets; watching the train go round in our exhibit; and making a paper train.

A Message from the MCFHC Foundation

You can now donate to the Museum of the Cape Fear Historical Complex Foundation from our website, www.museumofthecapefear.ncdcr.gov. From the home page, scroll down to the bottom until you see the header "Support the Museum." Click on the DONATE button below, it's that simple!

Please remember the 1897 Poe House grounds are available for weddings and special events! Rental fees support programming and more!

The foundation supports Museum programs, exhibits and events throughout the year. While the state provides operating costs, all other activities are funded through grants and donations. Your support is needed to continue offering high quality educational programs and exhibits as we move towards establishing the North Carolina Civil War History Center.

If you would like to discuss sponsorship opportunities or the MCFHC Foundation programming, please contact Museum Administrator David Reid at (910) 486-1330 or david.reid@ncdcr.gov. Thank you for your continued support!

2016-2017 Board Members

Kelli C. Walsh, President
Charles Anderson, Jr.,
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Landco Outdoors
1941 Middle Road
Fayetteville, NC 28301
Telephone: (910) 485-7360

SunTree Landscaping

SunTree Landscaping
2100 Angelia M. Street
Fayetteville, NC 28301
Telephone: (910) 486-0898

Thank you to our landscaping sponsors Landco Outdoors and SunTree Landscaping for keeping the grounds of the 1897 Poe House beautiful for our fall event season. Please contact these generous companies for all of your landscaping needs!

We are looking for additional landscapers to add to a two month rotation beginning in March of 2017. If your company or someone you know would be willing to donate a bi-weekly service of mowing, trimming, and edging for two months please contact Megan Maxwell at the museum.



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Museum Hours

Tuesday-Saturday 10-5
Sunday 1-5

1897 Poe House Tours

Tues-Fri 11:00, 1:00, 3:00
Saturday 10-4 on the hour
Sunday 1-4 on the hour

Museum Staff

David Reid
Administrator

Leisa Greathouse
Curator of Education

Megan Maxwell
1897 Poe House
Education Coordinator

Karen Wallace
Administrative
Assistant

Jim Frederickson
Carpenter

Weekend Staff
Louise White
Ruth Aldridge
Sarah Stubbs
Angel Garcia

And more than 50
volunteers

The Museum of the Cape Fear Historical Complex consists of a NC southeast regional history museum, the 1897 Poe House, and Arsenal Park. Two floors of exhibits present the rich history of southeastern North Carolina, from the Paleo-Indian period to the first decades of the 1900s in the Museum of the Cape Fear. The fully restored and furnished 1897 Poe House, home of E.A. Poe, a Fayetteville brick maker, offers a glimpse of early twentieth-century life and the changes that defined this era. Finally, Arsenal Park marks the site commissioned in 1838 by the federal government to manufacture and store arms. The arsenal was used by the Confederacy during the Civil War, and it was destroyed by Union troops under the command of General William T. Sherman in March of 1865. Admission to the Museum Complex is FREE.

Upcoming Events

16th Annual Civil War Quiz Bowl **Thursday, Jan. 26** **7:00 pm**

Contestants test their knowledge of trivia, tactics and history as host Jim Greathouse assails them with questions covering all aspects of the War Between the States. The questions will challenge the most avid Civil War buff. Open to contestants of all ages, prizes awarded for both adult and student (16 and under) winners. Registration accepted until 20 spaces are filled. Register at the door, or call the museum to sign up. The Civil War Quiz Bowl is open to the public, with plenty of room for friends, family and spectators (no blurting out the answers please!). For more information and to register, contact Leisa Greathouse at 910-486-1330, or email leisa.greathouse@ncdcr.gov. FREE!

Preschool Pals **2nd Tuesday of the Month** **10:00 am**

Preschool Pals is a free program for ages 3-5 and includes crafts and a story time. Please call ahead to register so we have plenty of materials on hand for each child.

Tues January 10– 1897 Winter Fun
Tues February 14– President's Day
Tues March 14– Women's History

Dancing Stories **Saturday, Feb. 4** **2:00 pm**

Kick off your Black History Month celebrations at the Museum of the Cape Fear as we present Dancing Stories with April C. Turner. April C. Turner uses dances, stories and songs from traditional West African culture to affirm commu-

nity building concepts such as working together, integrity, and perseverance. At the end of the presentation, audience members are invited to participate in playing music together as a community. The program is a well-rounded cultural experience focusing on the strength of art to inspire, unite and educate. FREE!

In Sherman's Path: Final Days of Fayetteville's Confederate Arsenal **Sunday, March 12** **2:00 pm**

Wade Sokolosky, author of *No Such Army as the Days of Julius Caesar: Sherman's Carolinas Campaign from Fayetteville to Averasboro, March 1865*, is back to speak on the book's second printing with expanded text. Book signing to follow the presentation. FREE

Battle of Saratoga **Sunday, April 2** **2:00 pm**

Dr. Matt Farina will give a one-hour presentation on the Battle of Saratoga, which was the turning point for the Americans in their fight for independence from England. The victory rejuvenated the hopes of the patriots and secured the support of doubting allies from overseas. FREE

May Day Fete **Sunday, April 30** **1:00-4:00 pm**

Join us for a spring May Day celebration on the grounds of the 1897 Poe House. The event will feature a traditional May Pole with English country dancing and songs culminating with the crowning of our own May Day Queen. Learn about May Day customs such as going "a-Maying" and more! FREE

The Museum of the Cape Fear Historical Complex is part of the NC Department of Cultural Resources/Division of State History Museums.